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Please cancel the Abstract, and substitute therefor:

~~~A digital camera includes a digital memory system having a control unit for checking for proper format initialization of a removable digital memory element and for performing format initialization of the memory element when necessary.~~

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21-30, without prejudice to Applicants' right to further prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and objection set forth in the Office Action of October 11, 2000, are earnestly solicited.

With this Amendment, claim 31 remains pending in this case. A new Title and Abstract are substituted by this Amendment, and are believed to overcome the Examiner's objections thereto.

Applicants' undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a telephone interview of October 26, 2000. During that interview, the Examiner confirmed that the rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Sasson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,016,107) has been withdrawn, leaving claim 31 rejected solely on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 1-18 of commonly-owned U.S. Patent No. 5,138,459.

Claims 21-31 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 5,138,459. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

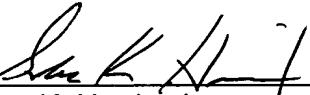
Claims 21-30 have been cancelled. Submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer mooting the rejection of claim 31.

The remaining rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e), 103(a) of claims 21-30 have been mooted by cancellation of these claims.

This case is now believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgement of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated November 30, 2000

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Enc. – Terminal Disclaimer